

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant United States Attorney Richard C. Cheng (619) 557-7136***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - May 22, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Antonio Pina and Jose Guadalupe Hernandez-Valdez, both pled guilty to two counts of alien smuggling for financial gain in U.S. District Court in San Diego. In connection with his plea, Pina admitted that on January 31, 2006, while on duty as a Master-At-Arms with the United States Navy Shore Patrol at the Old Port Building, located adjacent to the San Ysidro, California Port of Entry, he led six undocumented aliens into the United States with the expectation of receiving \$3000 from each of the aliens. Hernandez-Valdez similarly admitted that on January 31, 2006, while he was an off-duty member of the United States Navy, he participated in the smuggling in return for \$3000 per undocumented alien.

Both men are scheduled to be sentenced on Wednesday, August 23, 2006, at 8:00 a.m. by United States District Court Judge Napoleon A. Jones, Jr.

**DEFENDANTS**

ANTONIO PINA

JOSE GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ-VALDEZ

**AGENCIES**

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection

Naval Criminal Investigative Service

**CHARGE OF CONVICTION**

Bringing In Illegal Alien Resulting For Private Financial Gain or Commercial Advantage in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) and Aiding and Abetting

Maximum Penalty: Ten Years' Imprisonment

Mandatory Minimum of Three Years' Imprisonment

\$250,000 fine